



**Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Alaska Workforce Investment Board**

**Executive Director's Report
September 4, 2009**

The agenda for the October AWIB meeting has been finalized and sent to the AWIB (attached). The next board meeting will be held on October 26th and 27th at the University of Alaska Board of Regents Conference Room in Fairbanks.

The agenda includes an update on the development of a healthcare workforce development plan, statewide CTE plan update, and briefings on service delivery programs. Updates regarding the AGIA Strategic Training Plan, registered apprenticeship, research and analysis, workforce development budget, and legislative issues will be provided. Time has been allocated on the agenda for AWIB discussion items, an AWIB process session, and committee meetings and reports. The AWIB will receive an update from the STEP Task Force and the STEP regulation project. A nominations committee has been appointed to solicit interest for Election of Officers. An election for Chair and Vice-Chair will be held at the October AWIB meeting.

An AGIA Steering Committee meeting was held on Wednesday, August 19th to review the implementation schedule and action to date for the four strategies contained in the AGIA Training Strategic Plan. Jeff Selvey and Helen Mehrkens gave an update on the status of implementation for Strategy 2, and portions of Strategy 4 related to Career and Technical Education. Gerry Andrews and Mike Shiffer gave an update on the implementation for Strategy 3 for registered apprenticeship. Several Department of Labor staff contributed to the update on implementation for Strategy 4. Guy Bell provided an update on the FY 10 budget for workforce development. The next AGIA Steering Committee is scheduled for late October or early November in Fairbanks.

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL), Employment Training Administration is soliciting grant applications for the healthcare sector under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A grant application is being prepared by an industry consortia that currently includes Providence Hospital, Fairbanks Memorial Hospital, the University of Alaska, Anchorage School District, Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, U.S. Office of Apprenticeship, Alaska State Hospital and Nursing Home Association, Denali Commission, AWIB, and other agencies. The USDOL intends to fund grants ranging from \$2 to \$5 million and the applications are due by October 5, 2009. A healthcare workforce development plan is being developed by this industry consortia and a draft of the plan is expected to be presented to the AWIB at the October meeting in Fairbanks.

The USDOL, Employment Training Administration is soliciting grant applications from State Workforce Investment Boards for State Energy Sector Partnership and Training Grants under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). A grant application for training related to renewable energy and energy efficiency occupations and the formation of a State Energy Sector Partnership (SESP) is being considered. The USDOL is strongly encouraging a comprehensive energy sector partnership around state energy policies to create jobs and promote economic development in the energy efficiency and renewable energy fields. A meeting has been scheduled for September 8th at the Alaska Energy Authority to discuss the state energy plan and grant application requirements. If the SESP is formed and supportive of the grant proposal, the application must come from the AWIB and be submitted by October 20, 2009. The USDOL intends to fund grants from \$2 to \$6 million. As this is a USDOL solicitation, staff from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development and the Alaska Workforce Investment Board would take the lead in organizing and preparing the application.

Alaska's Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Annual Performance Report for PY 2008 is due to the USDOL ETA by October 1, 2009. The WIA Annual Report includes Workforce Investment Act Title 1-B adult, dislocated worker, and youth programs as well as Trade Adjustment Assistance, Wagner-Peyser, and Veterans Services programs. The draft annual report will be forwarded to the Assessment and Evaluation Committee for review at the next scheduled meeting on September 17th, then on to the Executive Committee for review and submittal through the Commissioner's Office to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Committees

- The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Assessment and Evaluation Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 17th at 3:00 p.m.
- The next Workforce Readiness and Employment Placement Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd at 3:00 p.m.
- The next Policy and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 24th at 10:00 a.m.
- The next Youth Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 4th at 10:00 a.m.